

REMARKS

Claims 1-57 are pending. The Examiner rejects claims 1, 14, 19, 20, 32, 33, 45 and 46 under 35 USC §102(e) anticipated by Umayabashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,747,990). The Examiner rejects claims 2, 23, 36 and 49 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Umayabashi. The Examiner rejects claims 3 and 18 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Umayabashi in view of Redington (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0126689). Applicant amends claims 2-8, 13-15, 17-18, 21-24, 34-37, and 47-50, and cancels claims 1, 19, 20, 32, 33, 45, and 46. Claims 2-18, 21-31, 34-44, and 47-57 remain in the application. Applicant adds no new matter and requests reconsideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-13, 15-17, 21, 22, 24-31, 34, 35, 37-44, 47, 48, and 50-57 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has elected to rewrite claims 4-8, 13, 15, 17, 21, 22, 24, 34, 35, 37, 47, 48, and 50 into independent form to place claims 2-18, 21-31, 34-44, and 47-57 in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under §102 and §103

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 14, 19, 20, 32, 33, 45 and 46 under 35 USC §102(e) anticipated by Umayabashi. The Examiner rejects claims 2, 23, 36 and 49 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Umayabashi. The Examiner rejects claims 3 and 18 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Umayabashi in view of Redington. Applicant has canceled claims 1, 19, 20, 32, 33, 45, and 46 and amended the dependency of the claims 2, 3, 14, 18, 23, 36, and 49 to place the application in condition for allowance.

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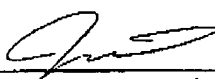
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CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-18, 21-31, 34-44, and 47-57 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.



Jeffrey J. Richmond
Reg. No. 57,564

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.
210 SW Morrison Street, Suite 400
Portland, OR 97204
503-222-3613

Customer No. 20575